

consideration the bill (H.R. 1776) to expand homeownership in the United States:

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment by my estimable colleague from California, Congresswoman WALTERS.

As a former Mayor of a large city, I know a thing or two about depending on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) to pay for services and housing for poor communities. And let me tell you—there is never enough money in the pot to meet the needs of those communities.

I think the proposals made here today are great. I think creating incentives for teachers and police officers to move into distressed communities is a great idea. Mixed income communities provide lower income neighborhoods with much-needed role models and opportunities.

But let us be very clear about the funding for these changes. The money for these proposals we are discussing here today will have to come from the same pot of money that is currently set aside for the very neediest of Americans.

And there isn't enough of it to go around.

Today the floor is filled with talk about the need to reinvest in our communities. What I want to know is—when we are all back here in the fall debating the budget, will we be as committed to these programs—to these communities—as we are today?

Will we be willing to put our money where our mouth is today?

I support this underlying legislation. We should work together to revitalize those areas that need our attention.

If we are going to take these programs beyond their intended mission, we should be prepared to increase the funding necessary to add each of the groups we want to make eligible.

We cannot stretch dollars too thin at the expense of the people we say we are trying to lift up. I look forward to working with the sponsors of this legislation to ensure that the funding is in place to meet our shared goals.

#### HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF RAY MINTON

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 11, 2000*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ray Minton on his retirement as the Cannon County Election Commission's Administrator of Elections. He has served as Cannon County's chief election officer for 32 years.

A lot has changed since 1968, the year Ray started working for the Cannon County Election Commission. Ballots have gone from paper to computer, and records from hand-written to typed to computer. District lines have been redrawn. Candidates have won or lost by the will of the voting public.

No doubt the biggest change in Ray's life and the event that led him to the election commission was the discovery of a cancerous spi-

nal tumor. After losing the use of his legs, he began to work part time at the election commission as part of his recovery. Ray has said that the work kept him busy and made him feel needed. And I can assure you that Ray has been, and still is, needed by his community and friends like myself.

We will sorely miss him, but I'm sure Ray will continue to be a positive role model, admired for his attitude and service to his community.

Ray, I wish you the best of luck in any new endeavors you decide to take on and for you to have a long and happy retirement spent with your family and friends.

#### HONORING DOCTOR ROCCO ORLANDO FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 11, 2000*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and join the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven as they pay tribute to one of our community's outstanding citizens, my cousin, Dr. Rocco Orlando. This evening family, friends, and colleagues will gather as Rocco is honored with this year's Distinguished Service Award.

I often speak of our Nation's need for talented, creative, enthusiastic teachers who are ready to help our children learn and grow. Rocco is just that kind of educator. Throughout his career he has touched the lives of children from elementary school to college. His career culminated as he was appointed as a professor in the Sixth Year Graduate Program in Educational Leadership at Southern Connecticut State University—charged with preparing students for administrative positions in public school systems themselves.

Public education is the cornerstone of the American dream, leveling the playing field and providing every child with the opportunity to make the most of his or her talents. It is talented professionals like Rocco who truly shape the leaders of tomorrow. His unique dedication to education extends outside the classroom into the community itself. Rocco has long been affiliated with the New Haven Scholarship fund, currently serving as vice president, enabling hundreds of needy students to continue their education.

Shortly after the Connecticut General Assembly passed a collective bargaining law in 1966, Rocco began to study the effectiveness of the provided mediation process. His doctoral dissertation studied the collective bargaining negotiations between teacher organizations and Boards of Education in Connecticut. His extensive research led to his appointments, which he continues to hold, as an Arbitrator with the Connecticut State Board of Arbitration and Mediation, the Connecticut Board of Education and the Office of Policy and Management of the State of Connecticut. Rocco has worked diligently to ensure that the concerns and goals of employees and management are heard in a fair and just forum—

helping to create an environment which meets the best interests of all Connecticut residents.

Today, as Rocco is honored with this very special award, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for his tireless efforts on behalf of our young people. He has made a real difference in the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on our children and community. I am honored to join with his wife, Rae; children, Lisa and her husband Michael, Rocco and his wife, Joanne; grandchildren, Laura, Alexander, and Rocco; family; friends; colleagues; and the Italian American Historical Society to congratulate Rocco as the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award. His remarkable contributions are a reflection of the very spirit of this award.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE DIGITAL ACCESS ACT

#### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 11, 2000*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, with the Government's increasing dependence on information technology to accomplish agency goals, and at the fast pace with which technology is changing, the Government is finding it difficult to hire, train, and retain a technology literate workforce. The ability to use computers and the Internet has become indispensable to employees' education, career, social, and cultural advancement. Technology literacy has become not only a basic job requirement, but also a basic life skill.

Economists and policymakers have highlighted an acceleration in the growth of productivity, which measures worker output per hour, as a key reason the economy has performed so well in recent years. Economists have attributed the rise in productivity to better management, and to a wave of business investment that has allowed firms to take advantage of major technological advances, particularly in computing and information processing. The Government is no exception.

Last month, David Walker, Comptroller General for the General Accounting Office (GAO), testified before the Senate Government Affairs Committee on "Managing Human Capital in the 21st Century." He stated, and I quote:

"One of the principal strategies that agencies have used to deliver services with fewer staff has been an increased reliance on information technology. However, the agencies' ability to make the most of this strategy could be jeopardized by the competitive disadvantage they report facing in hiring and retraining skilled information technology staff."

He went on to say that if the government does not improve its human resource systems, in this regard, it will earn GAO's high risk designation in 2001. The Federal Times, a federal employees newspaper, recently reported that federal agencies are facing skills gaps, particularly in the area of technology, and are facing the potential loss of 30 percent of their employees within five years.

Which the advent of the Information Age, the need for technologically skilled people is escalating. Meanwhile, the number of skilled